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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/48/717/Add.8)]

48/176. Human settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, by which it established the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to serve as the institutional focus for human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

Recalling also its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Cognizant of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national and international level for the implementation of the Strategy,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the implementation of the Strategy and of the human settlement aspects of Agenda 21 1/ and in the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I, Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol.III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

Noting with appreciation that the Commission on Human Settlements and the Centre, in line with the objectives and responsibilities set out in General Assembly resolution 32/162, have succeeded in placing human settlements high on the agenda for national action and international cooperation and in promoting increased understanding of the links among people, settlements, environment and development,

Noting with concern that, in many developing countries, the achievements in terms of policies, programmes and projects at the national level in the field of human settlements have not been sufficient to arrest or reverse the deterioration in the living conditions of their populations, in both urban and rural areas,

Convinced that proper planning, development and management of human settlements will lead to economic and social progress and thereby alleviate poverty and promote development that is environmentally sound and sustainable in the long run, and aware that widespread civil conflicts and wars have left many cities and villages totally destroyed,

Reaffirming the importance of its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992 on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Recalling its resolution 47/212 B of 6 May 1993, in which, inter alia, it requested the Secretary-General to reconsider his proposal to abolish the post of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), taking into account the views and recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements and of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the views expressed by Member States regarding the question of separate senior management arrangements for the Centre,

1. Endorses the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fourteenth session; 2/

2. Also endorses Commission resolutions 14/7 of 5 May 1993 on the strengthening of regional activities, 14/19 of 5 May 1993 on the role and place of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the United Nations system and 14/20 of 5 May 1993 on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); 3/

3. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) are kept under distinct and separate management and direction, in accordance with their specific mandates and activities;

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/48/8 and Add.1).

3/ Ibid., annex I, sect. A.

4. Also requests the Secretary-General, in the context of ensuring high-level leadership of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) through distinct and separate management and direction as contemplated in General Assembly resolution 32/162, taking into account relevant recommendations on the ongoing restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system as it prepares for the challenges of human settlement development and management in the twenty-first century, as well as preparations for Habitat II, to give full consideration to the views expressed by Member States regarding the leadership of the Centre;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, in the restructuring of the United Nations system, the Centre is maintained as the global focal point for human settlements, and that its institutional capabilities are strengthened at its headquarters, maximizing the effectiveness of national and regional operations;

6. Urges all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to contribute to and participate actively in adequate preparations for Habitat II;

7. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on the progress made in preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

86th plenary meeting
21 December 1993